New Leadership in 2009

During 2009, the Knox County Health Department assumed new leadership. Ms. Heidi Britton, MPH closed the September Board of Health meeting by signing a one-year contract with the Health Department as the new Public Health Administrator for Knox County.

Knox County Board of Health President, Jeanne Harland spoke highly of Heidi, expressing high regard for her enthusiasm and excitement. “Ms. Britton will bring a lot of positive energy to the Health Department,” stated Harland, “the Board is extremely confident in her abilities, she will be a great asset to this Department; it is time for the Knox County Health Department to move forward and grow.”

Ms. Britton comes to the Health Department from the Urbana area where she worked as a Program Coordinator for the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District supervising the Urbana School Health Center. Heidi holds a Master’s in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from the same school.

Ms. Britton currently resides in Galesburg with her husband and two children.

2009 Accomplishments

- Family Case Management Program received an excellent state program review.
- Provided continued, quality public health services, to Knox County residents, with significant budget cuts.
- Made very challenging and difficult budget decisions; based on very vague, to no, state information and guidance.
- Management Team grew as leaders, and presented a united, capable and driven front, alleviating any concerns staff may have had, during the interim administrator period.
- Secured a new Public Health Administrator.
- Completed month-long time study for Community Health Improvement staff.
- Emergency Preparedness received the highest score on LTAR (SNS plans) among the Peoria-West Region Health Departments.
- Amended on-site wastewater and food safety ordinances.

Met the challenge of H1N1, with professionalism and a clear plan to vaccinate Knox County residents in the most productive and efficient system.

- Convened the 2nd Annual Youth Leadership Summit; instructing 75 Knox County 10th graders on how to be leaders and peer mentors within their schools.
- Kicked of the 4th Community Health Improvement Assessment and Planning process for the Knox County Community.
- Successfully advocated for, and received federal designation for all of Knox County as a “Medically Underserved Population.”
- Received grant funding from the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation to increase access to dental health services by increasing personnel.
- Received grant funding and implemented the Knox County Health Department Quality Improvement and Performance Management initiative.
- Two employees prepared to implement IDPH Tattooing and Body Piercing program.

New Look beginning in 2009

During October 2009, the Knox County Health Department became one of thousands of local public health agencies across the United States to adopt a new identity for local public health, one that nationally communicates dedication to community health and safety.

The Board of Health took action at the October 8, 2009 meeting to adopt the identity, which represents public health does - and what public health achieves:
- The symbol of a three-pointed shield and stylized plus illustrate a universal recognition associated with health, with protection and with growth.
- The three point symmetry reinforces the three core functions of public health.
- The words Prevent. Promote. Protect. Are a simple, elegant statement that embraces everything that public health accomplishes and differentiates public health as both a sentinel and responder.
- The colors stand for integrity, authority and stability. They symbolize the legacy and steadfast qualities of public health.

“The Health Department touches the lives of everyone in our community, every single day,” reports Heidi Britton, Public Health Administrator for the Knox County Health Department. “Much of this work takes place outside of the public’s view,” noted Britton, “by adopting the national identity for local public health, the Department is part of a national initiative to ensure that people recognize, understand and use the many services that public health offers.”
Health Protection Programs

The goal of the Health Protection Division is to protect the health and welfare of Knox County residents through the provision of essential public health services. The division provides disease surveillance, investigation, and control activities; conducts outbreak investigations and provides training and educational resources.

Environmental Health: Environmental health impacts food and drink establishments, and provides for the health of all environmental health data. The division permits and licenses private water supplies and private sewage systems, conducts lead paint investigations, and performs other environmental health services.

Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation: Local Public Health Departments are required to investigate communicable (infectious) diseases such as whooping cough, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and other communicable or reportable diseases. The Communicable Disease Program works with the state health department and local health care providers to identify, investigate, and try to control disease outbreaks in our community.

Public Health Programs

Knox County Health Department
1361 West Fremont Street, Galesburg, Illinois 61401
309-344-2224

www.knoxcountyhealth.org

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

MISSION

to serve Knox County by assessing health and environmental needs, developing policies, and assuring those needs are effectively addressed.

VISION

Healthy People in a Healthy Community!

Distribution of Property Taxes

Distributed in Knox County - 2009

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2009 H1N1 Campaign

On May 5, 2009, Health Department officials were notified that Knox County had its first confirmed case of the H1N1 influenza virus. The Department began active surveillance of any possible influenza-like cases and contact with local health care providers to identify, investigate, and try to control disease outbreaks in our community.

On December 15, the H1N1 Vaccine was available to all residents of Knox County.

On October 20, 2009, the Department began providing the H1N1 vaccine FREE of charge.

On Saturday, November 7th five community clinics were held simultaneously in Knox County to provide the vaccine.

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It is the mission of the Knox County Community Health Clinic to provide access to dental and primary health services for the medically underserved, which stress prevention and patient responsibility.

MEDICAL SERVICES OFFERED:
- Employment physicals
- School and sports physicals
- Acute and Chronic medical care
- Immunizations
- Adult Wellness
- Cholesterol Screenings
- Asthma treatment and management
- Nutritional counseling and referrals
- Prescription assistance for qualifying medications

FOR MEDICAL OR DENTAL APPOINTMENTS
call 309-344-2225 8am to 4:30pm. Medicaid accepted

Dental Clinic Statistics 2009
Number of Appointments 4,295
New Patients Seen 805
Children Receiving Service 3,183
Medicaid Eligible Children 3,150
Adults Receiving Service 457
Medicaid Eligible Adults 333
Total Patients Seen 3,640

2009 Dental Services Rendered
Number of County Residents
Extractions 379
Fillings 1,507
Prophylaxis 1,957
X-Rays 2,537
Oral Exams 1,725

Knox County Community Health Clinic

HRSA Planning Grant Activities

Expanding local health care

DID YOU KNOW?
Oatmeal and Oat Bran are one of the Top 5 Foods that lower cholesterol.

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
The Knox County Health Department is searching for community-minded individuals of all professions who are interested in serving as board members on the inaugural Knox County Health Clinic Governing Board. Board members provide valuable guidance about Community Health Clinic services and operations.

If this is something you are interested in hearing more about, contact Michele Fishburn at 344-2224 or mfishburn@knoxcountyhealth.org

Or stop by to fill out an application:

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2009 was a year of change and challenges for the Knox County Health Department. In September Heidi Britton was hired as our new public health administrator. She has brought to the job new insight and fresh ideas about how to address and meet the many needs of a local health department. Working with the management team to streamline the organization, the new director has implemented changes necessary to assure that services are delivered effectively but ever more efficiently.

In addition to constantly rethinking how to maintain programs despite funding cuts and delayed payments from the State of Illinois, the entire staff of the Knox County Health Department met the substantial challenge presented by the emergence of H1N1 influenza. Because of training in emergency preparedness for a pandemic flu outbreak, the staff successfully accomplished the massive undertaking of providing immunizations county-wide in a timely and highly efficient manner.

During the past year the Health Department has also begun the process of becoming eligible for Federally Qualified Health Department status. While this is an enormous challenge, such a designation would enable the Health Department to provide a higher level of health care for the citizens of Knox County. Working with our community partners and developing new relationships will assure additional opportunities for growth.

The residents of Knox County can feel confident that the dedication and professionalism of the entire Health Department staff will assure that much-needed services will continue to be available. Knox County has a dynamic and responsive Health Department that is well-positioned to promote healthy people in a healthy community as we enter the next decade.

Message from the President: “On behalf of the Board of Health, thank you all for your ongoing support.”
Jeanne Harland

Members from left to right
Back row:
B. Lance Renfroe, DDS, Frank Peppers, MD, Doug Gibb, Treasurer; Greg Bacon, County Board Liaison; Tommy West, MD.
Front row:
Kim DeSutter, Jeanne Harland, President; Carol Scotton, Secretary; and Jacquelyne Turner, Vice-President

2009-2010 Knox County Board of Health